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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/687,792

10/17/2003

Aram Kovach

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12/15/2004

Michael A. Forhan
Thompson Hine LLP
10 W. Broad St., Suite 700
Columbus, OH 43215-3435

EXAMINER

BUGG, GEORGE A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2636

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/687,792

Applicant(s)

KOVACH, ARAM

Examiner

George A Bugg

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-12, 14 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,100,804 to Brady et al., in view of US Patent No. 5,793,639 to Yamazaki.

3. As for claim 1, part a requires ***“coding a plurality of RFID tags with a unique identifier, the identifier being stored in a memory portion of each RFID tag;”***.

Column 16, lines 48-52, and 60-63, disclose RFID tags 1902 and 2002 (a plurality of tags), having identification information about a patient and/or driver, being stored on, or written to the tags. Additional tags, of the Brady reference, are shown in Figures 17A and 17B, as well as 18A and 18B, as elements 1702, and 1804 respectively, any or all of which can have specific information recorded thereon. Furthermore, writing information to a tag, implies storing information in a memory. The Brady reference teaches RFID memory, multiple times (column 5, lines 32-40 for one) throughout the document. Part b requires ***“coding a first RFID tag with information relating to a select passenger, the information being stored in the memory portion of the first RFID tag;”***. As previously shown, specific information about a person can be written to the memory of an RFID tag. As for part c, Figure 20 shows an RFID tag 2002, affixed to a driver's license, or means for identifying a select passenger. As for parts d and e,

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column 16, line 57, through column 17, line 13, describe a scenario in which the identification means is retained by the owner, and that it can be scanned to retrieve specific information relating to the owner. As further evidenced in column 6, lines 36-41, the system can be used in an airport. While the Brady reference does not specifically teach retrieving passenger-specific information, or creating a passenger record, the Yamazaki reference teaches, in column 4, lines 27-45, that personal information, such as flight reservations, can be stored on an IC card, and presented upon check-in at the airport. With regard to part f, column 9, lines 9-22 of Yamazaki reference, teach a passenger information file, depicted in Figure 1 as element 17. As for part g, column 12, lines 29-42, teach an authentication camera, shown as element 37 in Figure 4. With regard to part h, j, and k, column 9, lines 53-59, teach issuing a boarding pass and baggage tags, associated with a specific passenger. As for part i, column 16, lines 1-11, disclose storing passenger specific flight information in the passenger record 17. With regard to parts l and m, Yamazaki teaches affixing a tag to a piece of baggage. Furthermore, Column 4, lines 28-45, teach that a passenger identification card, can have specific passenger information stored thereon, and scanned upon arrival at an airport in at a check-in point. Such information to include a flight reservation, and baggage information. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Brady and Yamazaki for the purpose of creating a system wherein airport check-in, and baggage inspection is faster and more efficient, as well as eliminating the need for security personnel.

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4. As for claim 14, the limitations of claim 14 coincide with that of claim 1, and are rejected based on the citations listed above.

5. As for claims 2 and 3, Yamazaki discloses the use of IC cards, column 4, lines 28-45, and further states that such cards can be associated with boarding passes and luggage (column 13, lines 9-30), and that specific information can be stored thereon.

6. As for claim 4, column 15, lines 12-22, of Yamazaki, disclose a process wherein luggage is determined to be safe or not, upon determining that a passenger's bags contain no harmful contents, a passed inspection designation is stored in the passenger record 17.

7. As for claims 5 and 6, Yamazaki teaches (column 11, lines 9-17) an automatic check-in counter with a card reader, or scanner, with a display coupled thereto. As previously shown, reservation information is retrieved from the IC card. This same passage of the Yamazaki reference teaches that touch screen associated with display 19, can be used to input information in response to instructions displayed.

8. As for claim 8, column 10, lines 52-58, teach baggage position information being sent to the Baggage Handling System. It stands to reason that if the location of a piece of luggage can be determined and stored in a record that the same could be done for a passenger.

9. As for claim 9, column 10, lines 28-33, disclose a passenger passing through a gate, and that information being sent to the host computer 3, which houses the passenger record 17.

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10. As for claim 10, column 6, lines 21-26, disclose a checking means for comparing check-in information, which can be information written to an IC card as previously shown, to stored reservation data, to see if the two agree.

11. As for claim 11, the Yamazaki reference teaches that the system can handle multiple pieces of baggage.

12. As for claim 12, column 15, lines 12-22, of Yamazaki, disclose a process wherein luggage is determined to be safe or not, upon determining that a passenger's bags contain no harmful contents, a passed inspection designation is stored in the passenger record 17.

13. With regard to claim 15, the Yamazaki reference clearly teaches a system being utilized by a passenger.

Allowable Subject Matter

14. Claim 16 is allowed.

15. Claims 7 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

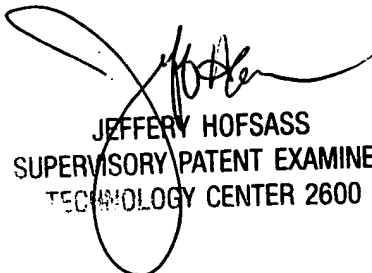
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George A Bugg whose telephone number is (571) 272-2998. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 9:00-6:30, and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Hofsass can be reached on (571) 272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

George A Bugg
Examiner
Art Unit 2636

December 8, 2004


JEFFERY HOFSSASS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600